MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION HELD IN THE IAN GILBERT ROOM OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS
Cr Kevin Mack Mayor Albury City Council
Cr Matthew Hannan Mayor Berrigan Shire Council
Cr Norm Brennan Mayor Edward River Council
Cr John Dal Broi Mayor Griffith City Council
Cr Paul Maytom Mayor Leeton Shire Council
Cr Ruth McRae Mayor Murrumbidgee Council

NON VOTING BOARD MEMBER – NSW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE
Mr James Bolton Regional Director Riverina Murray – Department of Premier and Cabinet

OTHER NON VOTING BOARD MEMBERS – COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGERS
Mr Frank Zaknich Albury City Council
Ms Amanda Spalding Hay Shire Council
Mr Rowan Perkins Berrigan Shire Council
Mr Adam McSwain Edward River Council
Mr Craig Moffitt Murrumbidgee Council
Mr Adrian Butler Federation Council
Ms Jackie Kruger Leeton Shire Council
Ms Joanne Treacy Carrathool Shire Council
Mr George Cowan Narrandera Shire Council

OTHER COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
Cr Gen Campbell Deputy Mayor Murray River Council
Cr David Fahey Deputy Mayor Narrandera Shire Council
Mr Brian Barrett Acting General Manager Murray River Council
Mr Phil King Acting General Manager Griffith City

OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES
Mr Cameron Templeton Joint Organisation and Council Engagement Officer

MEETING PRESENTERS
Mr Brad Ferris (Southern Lights Project) Director of Engineering Albury City
Ms Kate de Hennin (Workshop) Corporate Planner Albury City
Ms Deanne Drage (Workshop) Consultant - Inspiring Health Solutions
Ms Edwina Hayes CEO Murray RDA

INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Mr Ray Stubbs
AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed Board Members, other Council representatives and special guests to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1A – CAMERON TEMPLETON OLG ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Cameron updated the meeting in relation to OLG initiatives, including the level of financial / management reporting being required of Councils by the NSW Auditor General, the potential for joint action by JOs for improved opportunities to recruit and retain Council officers in regional and rural areas, and the development of a new OLG website including a Councils’ portal function.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES

Voting Board Members
Cr Patrick Bourke (Mayor Federation Council); Cr Bill Sheaffe (Mayor Hay Shire Council); Cr Chris Bilkey (Mayor Murray River Council); Cr Peter Laird (Mayor Carrathool Shire Council) and Cr Neville Kschenka (Mayor Narrandera Shire Council).

Non-Voting Board Members
Des Bilske (General Manager Murray River Council) and Brett Stonestreet (General Manager Griffith City Council)

Other
Rachel Whiting – CEO Riverina RDA

RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted and that leave of absence be granted.
(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Hannan)

AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS / DESIGNATED PERSONS

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests lodged at the meeting by Board Members

AGENDA ITEM 4 - MINUTES OF INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING – HELD AT JERILDERIE ON 29TH JUNE 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the inaugural RAMJO Board Meeting held at Jerilderie on 29th June 2018 be confirmed
(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE 29TH JUNE 2018 BOARD MEETING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 29th June 2018

AGENDA ITEM 6 – JOINT ORGANISATIONS NETWORK MEETING – IN SYDNEY ON 15TH AND 16TH AUGUST 2018

Consideration was given to the agenda report by the Interim Executive Officer and to a follow up verbal report by Chairperson Cr Mack in relation to the Joint Organisations’ Network Meeting held in Sydney on 15th and 16th August 2018

RESOLVED that the Chairperson and IEO reports be adopted
(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Brennan)
AGENDA ITEM 7 – SOUTHERN LIGHTS STREET LIGHTING PROJECT – PRESENTATION BY BRAD FERRIS (RAMJO REPRESENTATIVE ON PROJECT WORKING GROUP)

Brad Ferris delivered a Powerpoint Presentation in relation to the current status of the Southern Lights Street Lighting Project, including a video outlining the potential advantages of incorporating smart controls on the lamp fittings for a range of hi-technology Smart City control functions. Brad advised that collaborative negotiations with Essential Energy, the NSW Regional Infrastructure Co-ordinator and State Government Ministers are currently at the final Business Case preparation stage.

A copy of the Powerpoint slides will be distributed to RAMJO Councils and Board Members with the Meeting Minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA COMMITTEES – PRESENTATION BY EDWINA HAYES CEO MURRAY RDA

Edwina Hayes briefly addressed the meeting and advised that she had recently been appointed to the CEO position. She provided details of the RDA Charter and in particular to the actions in train with Rachel Whiting of Riverina RDA to collaborate with Joint Organisations and Councils in the Riverina and Murray region.

Edwina advised that some powerpoint slides have been sent by the Murray and Riverina RDAs to the Interim Executive Officer, which the IEO will distribute with the Meeting Minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - WORKSHOP SESSION - DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAMJO STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

At this stage, the business agenda items were adjourned to enable the conduct of a workshop session facilitated by Deanne Drage and Kate de Hennin for the purpose of developing the RAMJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP). Arising from the Board’s consideration of the background papers and workshop materials and through agreement on a range of key strategic priorities, the next step will be the preparation of a draft document for the November Board Meeting, with a view to final development of the SSRP by the OLG deadline date of 31st December 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – RAMROC FINAL – DISTRIBUTION OF UNSPENT FUNDS AS AT 30TH JUNE WIND UP

The Interim Executive Officer submitted a report outlining the proposed distribution of unused RAMROC funds to RAMROC Member Councils, following the wind up date of 30th June 2018 and amounting to $143,379. The report referred to the resolution at the June Board meeting that the eleven RAMJO Councils will be asked to contribute back to RAMJO their share of the RAMROC distribution. This request will not apply to Greater Hume, Balranald and Wentworth Councils, which are not RAMJO Member Councils.

RESOLVED that the IEO’s report be adopted and that the Board confirm its previous resolution calling upon Member Councils to agree to re-contribute the shared distribution of unused RAMROC funds back to RAMJO, for the purpose of establishing a sound level of working capital for the future
(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Hannan)

AGENDA ITEM 11 – STATUS OF JOINT ORGANISATION IMPLEMENTATION AND OLG ENGAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a report from the Interim Executive Officer as to the status of establishing the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) and meeting the requirements and timelines of OLG

RESOLVED that the report by the Interim Executive Officer be adopted
(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Brennan)
AGENDA ITEM 12 – DRAFT REVENUE POLICY, BUDGET AND SCHEDULE OF MEMBER COUNCILS’ CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018-2019

The Interim Executive Officer submitted for the Board’s consideration the draft Revenue Policy, Budget Estimates and Schedule of Councils’ membership contributions for the 2018-2019 financial year.

RESOLVED that the RAMJO Revenue Policy, Annual Budget and Schedule of Membership Contributions for the 2018-2019 financial year be adopted
(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr McRae)

AGENDA ITEM 13 – DRAFT RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION CHARTER

Following adoption of a Draft Charter at the June 29 Board meeting, the document was distributed to Member Councils for feedback and comment for a period of 42 days. No changes have been proposed, although the Interim Executive Officer has now included in a new draft a number of suggested provisions relating to the Vision, Values and Role content of the document.

RESOLVED that the amendments and additions proposed by the Interim Executive Officer be adopted and that the Charter for the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website
(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Maytom)

AGENDA ITEM 14 – DRAFT CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Following adoption of a Draft Code of Meeting Practice at the June 29 Board Meeting, the document was distributed to Member Councils for feedback and comment for a period of 42 days. No changes have been proposed and the document was therefore submitted to the Board for final adoption

RESOLVED that the Code of Meeting Practice be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website
(Moved Cr Dal Broi and seconded Cr Maytom)

AGENDA ITEM 15 – DRAFT EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY

Following adoption of a Draft Expenses and Facilities Policy at the June 29 Board Meeting, the document was distributed to Member Councils for feedback and comment for a period of 42 days. No changes have been proposed and the document was therefore submitted to the Board for final adoption.

RESOLVED that the Expenses and Facilities Policy be now formally adopted and placed on the RAMJO website
(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

AGENDA ITEM 16 – DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The Interim Executive Officer presented a Draft RAMJO Communications and Engagement Plan, which sets out how RAMJO proposes to engage with member Councils, other stakeholders and communities in carrying out its strategic and operational roles and functions.

RESOLVED that the Board formally adopt the Draft Communications and Engagement Plan as submitted by the Interim Executive Officer and that the plan be placed on the RAMJO website
(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr McRae)

AGENDA ITEM 17 – RAMROC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MURRAY REGION TOURISM BOARD

Murray Region Tourism has invited RAMJO to nominate a new representative for the Board of MRT for a three year period commencing October 2018, in place of the former representative Tracey Squire.

RESOLVED that Adam McSwain General Manager of Edward River Council be nominated as the RAMJO representative to the Board of Murray Region Tourism
(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Brennan)
AGENDA ITEM 18 – WASTE TO ENERGY – FEASIBILITY STUDY PROPOSAL BY TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

Tenterfield Shire Council has submitted a proposal to the Federal and NSW Governments, seeking financial assistance to allow the commissioning of a comprehensive Feasibility Study to convert municipal and other sources of waste into energy (WtE) at a local community scale.

RESOLVED that RAMROC provide a letter of support to the proposal submitted by Tenterfield Shire Council
(Moved Cr Brennan and seconded Cr Maytom)

AGENDA ITEM 19 – RAMJO EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION – RECRUITMENT METHODOLOGY AND TIMETABLE

The Board considered a report by the Interim Executive Officer in relation to the planned recruitment of a new Executive Officer to follow on after the retirement of the Interim Executive Officer Ray Stubbs.

RESOLVED that a small Working Panel be formed to progress the EO recruitment function internally, comprising the Chairperson Cr Mack, Deputy Chairperson Cr Dal Broi, General Managers Frank Zaknich and Rowan Perkins and one other external independent female panel member
(Moved Cr Hannan and seconded Cr Brennan)

AGENDA ITEM 20 - RAMJO WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The following Working Group Meeting Minutes were submitted for information and endorsement:-
- Engineers Group Meeting – 9th May 2018
- Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 23rd May 2018
- Planners Group Meeting - 14th June 2018
- General Managers Group Meeting – 20th July 2018
- Murray Waste Group Meeting – 18th July 2018
- Riverina Waste Group Meeting – 8th August 2018
- Murray Waste Group Meeting – 8th August 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the various Working Group Meetings be received and endorsed
(Moved Cr McRae and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

AGENDA ITEM 21 – GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 21 (1) - Environmental water availability for farmers – Commonwealth and State Environmental Water Holdings

Cr Mack reported on representations that have been made by RAMJO to both Federal and State politicians and bureaucrats, requesting that environmental water be made available to our region’s farmers at favourable water prices, to enable them to finish off their crops which are already under stress, and to grow additional food and fodder to assist other drought stricken communities in western and northern NSW and Queensland. He advised that he and the Interim Executive Officer will continue to represent RAMJO communities, farmers and businesses in pursuing this matter.

Item 21 (2) – Commonwealth Productivity Commission Draft Report and Recommendations into the 5 year Assessment of the Murray Darling Basin Plan

The Productivity Commission has recently released its August 2018 Draft Report in relation to the 5 year Assessment of the effectiveness of the Murray Darling Basin Plan and its implementation. The PC has invited submissions on the Draft Report and Recommendations to be lodged by 10th October 2018.

RESOLVED that the Interim Executive Officer distribute the Productivity Commission Report and recommendations to Member Councils and invite their feedback and comments, with a view to the RAMJO Executive lodging a composite regional submission by the due date of 10th October
(Moved Cr Maytom and seconded Cr Dal Broi)

There being no further business, the RAMJO Board meeting concluded at 2.10 pm.